

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/572,797

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of July 8, 2008 is gratefully acknowledged.

Regarding the drawings, new REPLACEMENT SHEETS for Figs. 1 - 5 are being submitted herewith.

The objection to claim 10 is noted and has been corrected by changing "A" to "The" as suggested by the examiner.

The rejection of claims 6 - 9 under 35 USC 102(b) by APA, the rejection of claims 6, 8 and 9 under 35 USC 102(b) by Thornberg, and the rejection of claim 10 under 35 USC 103(a) "over applicant's art at time of the invention." and noted and respectfully traversed.

The APA and Thornberg fail to disclose pluggable modules which, when plugged together, enable an exchange of data and energy via a galvanically decoupled transfer zone. Relative to Thornberg, the examiner refers us to paragraph 36, lines 1 - 3 and lines 5 - 7. These lines mention conductors which allow for electrical communication between the cartridge and the analyzer device and input and output conductors. Furthermore, the conductors are arranged "in electrical contact" with the sensor arrangement. This can be seen from Fig. 3, which shows the electrical connectors 60. In contrast, galvanic decoupling (i.e., galvanic isolation) is the principle of isolating functional sections of electric systems so that charge carrying particles cannot move from one section to another, i.e., there is no electric current flowing directly from one section to the next. So energy and data are exchanged between sections by other means, such as by induction (see paragraph [0019]. There is no real comparison that can be

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made between Thornberg and the present invention because, at the very least, there is no galvanic decoupling. This conclusion is also reached by a consideration of the APA, which does not show pluggable modules which are connectable with the sensor module head. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that neither the APA nor Thornberg can anticipate claim 6, and certainly not as now amended.

The amendments to claims 7 and 8, like that to claim 6 removes them also from any consideration under 35 USC 102 by the APA and Thornberg.

As for claim 9, we do not see in the art, a pluggable module connectable with a sensor module head and having a simulation unit. The examiner suggests that Thornberg anticipates claim 9. But, the portions of Thornberg referred to by the examiner mentions measured signals not simulated signals. Claim 9 has been amended to make this distinction clear so that claim 9 also avoids any anticipation by Thornberg.

As to claim 10 and new claim 11, the key-ring pendant feature is not found in any of the references of record. These too patentably distinguish over the references of record.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 6 - 11 found allowable.

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Respectfully submitted,
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